

What Is the Bible All About?

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References: **Revelation 21**, Joshua 24:15; Revelation 1:1; Revelation 9:2-10; Revelation 21:1-7; John 3:16

So as you're well aware, in these sessions on Tuesday morning, I try to answer the basic question: What's the Bible all about?

正如大家所知道的，在星期二上午的这些聚会里，我试图回答一个基本的问题：圣经到底是讲什么的？

And it's true, the Bible is all about leading us to the point where we say, "I have decided I am going to serve the Lord." It is simple logic—what is the first part of the Bible all about? And the answer is it's all about history—what happened in the past and why.

确实，圣经的所有内容都是为了将我们带到一个点上，让我们能说：“我决定了，我要侍奉主。”这是简单的逻辑——圣经的前半部分是讲什么的？答案是，它讲的都是历史——过去发生了什么，以及为什么发生。

Some of you have noticed from an English perspective that the word history, if you break it down, has two parts. The first part of history is **His**, and the second part of history is **story**. What is history? History is **His** story.

你们中间有些人可能从英语的角度注意到了，“history”（历史）这个词如果拆开来看，是由两部分组成的。历史的前半部分是“His”（祂的），第二部分是“story”（故事）。什么是历史？历史就是“祂的故事”（His story）。

Whose story? Oh, history is God's story and Jesus' story. And frankly, there's nothing else terribly important about history than **His** story.

是谁的故事呢？哦，历史是神的故事，是耶稣的故事。坦率地说，在历史上，没有任何其他事情比“祂的故事”更重要了。

So **His** story begins with the fact that He made the heavens and the earth. And He made the stars also. How many stars did He make? Well, He didn't tell us—probably a few trillion—but He doesn't tell us. Why did He make them? Well, He didn't really tell us; they're not terribly important. What's He going to do with them? Probably He's going to do lots of things with them. You wouldn't make trillions of something if you weren't planning to do something with them.

所以，祂的故事开始于祂创造了天地。祂也造了星辰。祂造了多少颗星星呢？祂并没有告诉我们——可能有几万亿颗——但祂没有细说。祂为什么要造它们呢？祂真的没有告诉我们，这并不是非常重要。祂要拿这些星星做什么呢？可能祂要用它们做很多事情。如果你不打算用它们做点什么，你绝对不会创造出几万亿个这样的东西。

Is that very important? Well, it's important to God, but it's really not important to you and me. I've often asked the question: Why did He make all those stars? And I think the answer is so we'd have something pretty to look at at night. He's got all kinds of other reasons. What is important about **His** story? Adam and Eve used to live in the Garden of Eden. They don't live there anymore. That's important.

这非常重要吗？对神来说是重要的，但对你我来说其实并不重要。我经常问一个问题：祂为什么要造那么多星星？我想答案是，好让我们在夜里有美丽的东西可以欣赏。当然，祂还有其他各种各样的原因。但在祂的故事中，真正重要的是什么？亚当和夏娃曾经住在伊甸园里，但他们现在不再住在那里了，这才是重要的。

And so, out of all the story of the Bible, the important part is what we've got in the Bible. All the other parts that aren't explained are not important for us now; we'll learn about them later. But the important part, we've got in the Bible.

所以在圣经的所有故事中，重要的部分就是我们已经在圣经里得到的。其他所有没有解释的部分，对现在的我们来说并不重要，我们以后会明白的。但那些重要的部分，我们已经在圣经里得到了。

So what is the Bible all about? It begins with what happened yesterday, and it ends with what's going to happen tomorrow. Is that important? Yes, yesterday is important; we've got to understand. Tomorrow is important; we're going to be held responsible. And what's in the middle? What are we going to do about it?

所以圣经到底是关于什么的？它以昨天发生的事开始，以明天将要发生的事结束。这重要吗？是的，昨天很重要，我们必须理解它；明天也很重要，因为我们要为此承担责任。那么中间是什么？我们对此要做些什么？

That's history. That's prophecy. What are we going to do about the history and the prophecy? That's what's in the middle of life.

那是历史，那是预言。对于这历史和预言，我们该怎么做？这就是生命中间的部分。

Prophecy and Judgment

So what is prophecy all about? Turn to the Book of Revelation, chapter one. Revelation chapter one, and it says it's the revelation of Jesus Christ.

那么，预言到底是关于什么的？请翻到启示录第一章。启示录第一章，这里说，这是耶稣基督的启示。

[Revelation 1:1 NKJV] - The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

Is that important? Is there anything else that's important? What is Jesus going to do? That's important. What's going to happen in the world is not terribly important. All that's really important is what is Jesus going to do?

这重要吗？还有什么别的事情是重要的吗？耶稣要做什么？这才是重要的。世界上要发生什么事并不太重要，真正重要的只有一件事：耶稣要做什么？

And so if you go through the Book of Revelation and all the other prophecies in the Bible, you will find that there is coming a day of judgment. And as a result of the day of judgment, there will be two possible ends for people. As individuals, they will either go to heaven, or they will go to hell.

因此，如果你通读启示录和圣经中所有其他的预言，你会发现审判的日子将要来到。而作为审判日的结果，人们将面临两种可能的结局。作为个人，他们要么去天堂，要么去地狱。

Interestingly, there is no other alternative. The Bible is so complex, with all these hundreds of pages, and in the end, it's all very simple: you either go to heaven, or you go to hell. Your sins are either forgiven, and you enter into the joy of Jesus Christ, or your sins are not forgiven, and you go with all the others to the place where the devil is, because he was the great sinner who led us into sin.

有趣的是，除此之外没有第三种选择。圣经虽然如此复杂，有成百上千页，但到最后其实非常简单：你非去天堂，即去地狱。你的罪要么被赦免，使你进入耶稣基督的喜乐中；要么你的罪没有被赦免，你将和其他人一起去到魔鬼所在的地方，因为他是那个将我们引入罪中的最大罪魁。

The Reality of Hell

Now the question that most people ask is this: Is hell really bad, and is heaven really good? If hell isn't really bad, you wouldn't mind going there. If heaven isn't really good, you wouldn't want to go there. And so in the Book of Revelation, you get a description, first of all, of hell, and then you get a description of heaven. Which one do you choose?

现在，大多数人会问这样的问题：地狱真的有那么糟糕吗？天堂真的有那么美好吗？如果地狱没那么糟，你可能不会介意去那里；如果天堂没那么好，你可能也不想去。所以在启示录中，你首先会看到对地狱的描绘，接着是关于天堂的描绘。你会选择哪一个呢？

So turn to Revelation chapter nine, and we're going to read a little bit about what hell is going to be like. There are certain judgments that are going to come on the earth. One of them we read about in Revelation chapter nine: it's the judgment following the pronouncement of the fifth angel.

所以，请翻到启示录第九章，我们要读一读地狱到底会是什么样子。有一些特定的审判将会降临在地上。我们在启示录第九章读到的就是其中之一：这是在第五位天使宣告之后的审判。

And in summary, what we are going to see, what is going to happen, is that there will be a time of five months on the earth when the forces of hell are going to be released onto the earth, so that people who are alive will know what hell is going to be like. It's a warning to them: don't go to hell.

总而言之，我们将会看到、并且将会发生的是，地上将会有五个月的时间，地狱的势力会被释放到地上，让活着的人亲身体会地狱是什么样子。这是对他们的警告：千万不要去地狱。

So verse two begins to tell us what is going to happen on the earth as this warning of what hell will be like. And I will read it slowly, verse two.

所以，第二节开始告诉我们，作为关于地狱景象的警告，地上将会发生什么。我会慢慢地读出第二节。

[Revelation 9:2 NKJV] - ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

So what came out of hell? Smoke and darkness. That's what hell is going to be like forever and ever: smoke and darkness.

那么，从地狱里出来了什么？烟雾和黑暗。地狱永远的样子就是这样：烟雾 and 黑暗。

Verse three:

第三节：

[Revelation 9:3 NKJV] - ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

What are locusts? We don't see too many of them in Vancouver, but they are a grasshopper-like creature that goes over the land with millions and billions of them at the same time, and

they eat everything that is green. But these locusts are different from ordinary locusts. What are they like? They're like scorpions.

什么是蝗虫？我们在温哥华见不到太多，但它们是一种像蚂蚱一样的生物，成千上万、甚至成百上亿地同时扫过土地，吞吃所有绿色的植物。但这些蝗虫与普通的蝗虫不同。它们像什么？它们像蝎子一样。

So my question to you this morning is: has anyone here ever been bitten by a scorpion? We are all very fortunate. I have been told that when scorpions bite you, you know you've been bitten; it's terrible. These scorpions—verse four:

所以我今天早上要问大家一个问题：这里有人被蝎子咬过吗？我们都非常幸运。我听说当蝎子蛰你时，你立刻就会知道自己被蛰了，那是极其痛苦的。这些蝎子——第四节：

[Revelation 9:4 NKJV] - ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

What is hell going to be like? It's going to be like a smoky, black, dark place where there are billions of locusts whose responsibility is to bite you like a scorpion. You see, I wouldn't want to go to that place.

地狱会是什么样子？它将是一个烟雾缭绕、黑暗无光的地方，那里有数以亿计的蝗虫，它们的任务就是像蝎子一样蛰你。你看，我可不想去那个地方。

Verse five:

第五节：

[Revelation 9:5-6 NKJV] - ⁵ And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

What's going to happen on the earth in those days? Absolutely. Hell is going to be like that—people wanting to commit suicide, but it's no use. We had a friend who used to come to this chapel, and she ended up with slashed wrists and who knows what else. All she knew is she didn't die. And then she got a Bible, and she found the Lord Jesus as her Savior, and she was thankful that she didn't die.

在那些日子里，地上会发生什么？正是如此。地狱也是这样——人们想要自杀，但没有用。我们以前有一位朋友经常来这个聚会所，她最后割腕自杀，还做了谁知道其他什么事，她唯一知道的是她没有死成。后来她得到了一本圣经，她找到了主耶稣作为她的救主，她非常庆幸自己当时没有死。

And the shape of the—verse seven and eight:

接着是关于形状的——第七和第八节：

[Revelation 9:7-8 NKJV] - ⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron.

胸前有甲，好像铁甲。

[Revelation 9:9 NKJV] - ⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

Which means if the people who were there wanted to kill them, they couldn't.

这意味着，如果那里的人想要杀死这些蝗虫，他们是做不到的。

For sake of time, verse ten:

为了节省时间，第十节：

[Revelation 9:10 NKJV] - ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

What's the difference between this and hell? This plague was on the earth for five months. How long is hell? Answer: It's forever.

这与地狱有什么区别？这个灾祸在地上持续五个月。而地狱有多长久？答案是：永远。

The Glory of Heaven

Do you think anybody really wants to go there? It's a terrible place. Turn over now to chapter twenty-one. The Book of Revelation tells us what hell is like, and the answer is it's not a good place to go. Now, what's heaven like?

你认为真的有人想去那里吗？那是一个可怕的地方。现在翻到第二十一章。启示录告诉了我们地狱是什么样子的，答案是那绝对不是一个该去的好地方。那么，天堂又是什么样子的呢？

Chapter twenty-one, verse one:

第二十一章，第一节：

[Revelation 21:1 NKJV] - Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

And verse three and four:

第三和第四节：

[Revelation 21:3-4 NKJV] - ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

How would you prefer: hell or heaven?

你更倾向去哪里？地狱还是天堂？

Verse five:

第五节：

[Revelation 21:5 NKJV] - ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Is that too good to be true? No, because the verse goes on and He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And verse six and seven:

这是不是美好得不像真的？不，因为经文继续写道：祂对我说：“你要写上，因这些话是可信的，是真实的。”接着是第六和第七节：

[Revelation 21:6-7 NKJV] - ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Would that be enough? If you inherited all things, would you say, "I want more"? But you'll get more, because He says, "I will be his God, and he shall be My son." **You** get everything, and you get Jesus, and you get God.

这难道还不够吗？如果你继承了一切，你还会说“我想要更多”吗？但你会得到更多，因为祂说：“我要作祂的神，祂要作我的儿子。”你得到了一切，你也得到了耶稣，得到了神。

The Power of Choice

Would it be wise to choose to go to hell? Joshua lived it all his life. Joshua preached about the goodness of God and the tragedy of sin all his life. And then, at the end of his life, he said, "You get to choose." The choice is yours. You can either go to hell, or you can go to heaven. But he said, "You won't be surprised. Me and my house, we've decided: we are going to serve the Lord."

选择去地狱是明智的吗？约书亚一生都在活出这个真理。约书亚一生都在传讲神的美善和罪带来的悲剧。而在他人生的终点，他说：“你们可以做选择。”选择权在你们手中。你们要么选择去地狱，要么选择去天堂。但他接着说：“你们不会感到吃惊：至于我和我家，我们已经决定了，我们必定侍奉耶和华。”

What is the future? What's going to happen in the future? Each of us will either go to heaven, or we will go to hell. So we say, "All right, I've decided. I choose to go to heaven."

未来是什么？未来将会发生什么？我们每个人非去天堂，即去地狱。因此，我们会说：“好，我决定了。我选择去天堂。”

For God so loved the world...

因为神爱世人……

[John 3:16 NKJV] - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lord, we want to thank You for the simplicity of the story. We're thankful that the decision is not a hard one to make. The arguments, the logic, and the evidence are so obvious. Lord, may each of us say, "I choose to believe in Jesus. I want to go to heaven." Thank You for the story. Thank You that it's true. Thank You that the offer is still made to us today. And so we give thanks now in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.

主啊，我们要感谢您，因为这个故事是如此简单。我们心存感激，因为这个决定并不难做。论点、逻辑和证据都是如此明显。主啊，愿我们每一个人都说：“我选择相信耶稣，我想去天堂。”感谢这个故事，感谢它是真实的，也感谢这样的恩典今天依然向我们发出。因此，我们现在奉主耶稣的名献上感谢。阿们。阿们。